



Continuum of Care: Provide Resource Facilitation for Brain Injury Survivors in New York State Talking Points

BIANYS has served the brain injury community for the last **forty years** and is recognized as a resource for brain injury information, training and support services. Each year, BIANYS assists thousands of New Yorkers with their complex needs. People with a brain injury are often left with multiple problems due to the nature of their injury. Common issues include challenges with cognition, memory and/or behavioral problems, as well as physical disabilities.

The existing Family Advocacy, Counseling, and Training Services (FACTS) Program provides support to survivors and their families, advocating for care and community services, working together to ensure that the best plan is in place, but only can serve those survivors whose brain injury was sustained before age 22.

But what about the over 22 population that are not eligible to receive services under the 1915c Traumatic Brain Injury Home and Community Based Services Medicaid Waiver? Presently, there is no statewide brain injury program in NYS that encompasses all brain injury survivors.

We are advocating for the funding to implement a Resource Facilitation Program to create care plans that will keep individuals out of long-term care and/or high-risk environments. This would be a free service through the Brain Injury Association of New York State that assists individuals with brain injury, families and caregivers, and healthcare professionals find answers to questions about brain injury. Specifically, the Continuum of Care would address:

- Case Management to develop individualized care plans for optimal outcomes.
- Navigation of private insurance, managed care and Medicaid systems to assist the brain injury survivor and their caregiver to receive their optimal rehabilitative services.
- Network with health care systems across NYS for brain injury survivors to enter the Continuum of Care at point of injury.
- Network with provider agencies, community-based support services, vocational and other pertinent agencies across NYS to develop a network of support.
- **BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY**, Keep brain injury survivors healthy and at home, with all members of the care team kept aware of and engaged in the care management process,

In addition to the direct support detailed above, we will also:

- Create a brain injury prevention awareness and educational campaign.
- Provide outreach to target populations, including youth sports, older adults and adults sustaining concussions, among others.

- Create collateral informational materials including publications on brain injury for discharge planners at all Level I Trauma Health Care Systems to distribute to patients.
- Host webinars on fall prevention, training to medical personnel and education to community-based providers on the need for specialized services. Including the neurological impacts of Covid-19.
- Perform a needs assessment to gather data on brain injury incidence, severity and financial impact in New York State, and to identify gaps in services.

Resource Facilitation programs in other states prove to have positive effects on participants.

New York is one of only eleven states that does not have a Brain Injury Resource Facilitation program even though Brain Injury Resource Facilitation is an evidence-based best practice for brain injury survivors, enhancing the survivor's quality of life while realizing significant cost savings to the state.

For the past six years the Brain Injury Association of New York State has worked in collaboration with multiple health care system, state agencies, like-minded Associations and survivors and their families to get funding for the resource Facilitation project in the Executive Budget.

By supporting funding for resource facilitation, the state will help to ensure that persons with brain injury will be able to lead the highest quality of life possible in their own communities.

For more information:

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